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### MYSTERIOUS TOWN FOUND IN BORDER REGION

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The existence of a town of more than 15 blocks and even an airport with a maintenance garage presumably inhabited by Colombians was revealed yesterday by Dr Hens Silva Torres, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Borders of the Committee on Foreign Policy of the Chamber of Deputies.

The town which does not appear on any map or even in the records of the armed forces is located in the Guasare River Valley very close to the Colombian border.

Silva Torres spoke yesterday about the trip made by legislators Ruben Carpio Castillo, Cesar Rondon Lovera, Rigoberto Henriquez Vera and Said Moanack, and others during which they flew over the entire western zone, especially the Goajira area which is "completely desolated," in their own words.

This town, he said, has a very good road heading toward the Colombian border, its houses are on well defined lines and the airport is not recorded with the air force, in the words of the military commission that accompanied them.

"We have requested the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior and Defense to make an investigation to establish the facts about this town and to form an opinion about what we saw, a situation that disturbed the travelers," Dr Silva Torres added.

"We traveled throughout the whole area with the support of the Ministries of Defense, Foreign Affairs and Public Works, and the governments of the border states and we have made many conclusions from this trip which we shall present to the chairman of the chamber as well as to the appropriate agencies to as to seek acceptable solutions to improve the living conditions of our Venezuelan brothers.

"Among my personal conclusions, I can say that I will propose the establishment in the northern part of the peninsula of a town to replace the abandoned town of Castilletes, which will act as a counterweight to the town existing on the Colombian side known as Puerto Lopez.

"Secondly, I will call for the establishment of a free zone in the Upper Goajira region which will help to offset Maicao which enjoys the privileges of that system and where thousands of citizens go everyday to purchase goods.

"I will also include a request for the construction of a highway the whole length of the peninsula, from Paraguaipoa to Castilletes which will act as a spinal column for a development process that will be able to find solutions for the area, and to provide better penetration of the area which will be used to work the submarine platform of the Gulf of Venezuela.

"Finally, I will propose the construction of a highway between Paraguaipoa and Carrasquero where the economic efforts that have been made might be lost unless there are facilities within 2 years for the shipment of the farm products that are now being harvested." Silva Torres also stated that he could request a complete study of the Guasare River Basin which is the site of the reservoir which will provide the water necessary for the El Tablazo petrochemical industry and for the Lake Maracaibo zone.

"In this area where we made several short flights, we could observe how the forest has been ravaged by non-Venezuelan elements, and that these people have now begun to cut trees up to the western side of the river. This is the location of a town that has good communications and which does not appear on any map nor in the records of the armed forces."

In providing many details about the town, Silva Torres said that there is a belief that this town could be in Venezuela, but since the border has not been defined in that area, it is very difficult from the air to know exactly where it is. "This is the reason that we have requested an urgent investigation since we believe that this is no small thing."

Attempting to explain about defining the border, Dr Silva Torres said that from Alto del Cedro, along the Oca Mountains and to the Sierra de Perija, there are no landmarks due to several disagreements among the officials of both countries. This is a situation that should be resolved immediately since circumstances demand it.

The chairman of the Subcommittee on Borders said that it is very possible a new trip will be made to inspect Goajira -- where no good land communication exists -- so that the ministries responsible for these matters can take responsibility for seeking the improvements needed to guarantee the defense of national patrimony.

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